

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 114652
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 114652

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA

, AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SIAD
TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY
MOOSE:

A. YOUR LETTER TRANSMITTED BY AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN
PROVIDES THE ASSURANCES WE REQUIRED FOR AN EXPANDED
US-SOMALIA RELATIONSHIP. I HOPE IT WILL IN FUTURE BE
LOOKED BACK TO AS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN BRINGING PEACE
TO THE HORN OF AFRICA. IT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT
ELEMENT IN OBTAINING THE NECESSARY CONGRESSIONAL AND
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MILITARY SALES TO SOMALIA SINCE IT

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DEMONSTRATES YOUR GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A
RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN THE AREA.

B. YOU WILL RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE NOW AT THE START
OF A PROCESS WHICH WILL INVOLVE CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTA-
TIONS AND A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION, AMONG OTHER
STEPS. WE ARE FOR INSTANCE MAKING THE NECESSARY

PREPARATIONS TO SEND A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA

TO STUDY YOUR DEFENSIVE NEEDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN. WE WILL SHORTLY PROPOSE TO YOU A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ENSURE MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON THE WORK OF THIS TEAM.

C. WHILE WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH THESE STEPS, WE MUST FRANKLY AND STRONGLY REITERATE THAT THIS ENTIRE PROCESS COULD BE INTERRUPTED AT ANY POINT IF SERIOUS QUESTIONS WERE TO BE RAISED ABOUT SOMALIA'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS TOWARDS ITS NEIGHBORS. WE ARE CONCERNED OVER CONTINUED REPORTS OF MILITARY ACTIVITY BY THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT. WE ARE EVEN MORE GRAVELY TROUBLED BY REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED OF RENEWED SOMALI GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO THE GUERRILLAS. IF THESE REPORTS SHOULD BE CONFIRMED, THEY WOULD BE AT VARIANCE WITH THE TENOR OF YOUR LETTER WHICH CLEARLY IMPLIES YOUR WILLINGNESS TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS. RENEWED INVOLVEMENT OF THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT IN INSURGENT ACTIVITIES COULD JEOPARDIZE A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US, ESPECIALLY A MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP. CONTINUED GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ALSO PROVIDES THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS WITH A FURTHER EXCUSE TO REMAIN IN ETHIOPIA, AND MAY PROVOKE THE VERY
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ACTIONS WHICH YOU HAVE SAID YOU FEARED, NAMELY REPRI-SALS AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE OGADEN AND ATTACKS ON THE TERRITORY OF THE SOMALI REPUBLIC ITSELF. FOR ALL THESE REASONS WE STRONGLY URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD CONFIRM THESE REPORTS AND TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE WSLF LEADERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT.

2. FYI: IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DELIVERED THE IMPACT PACKAGE LIST TO SIAD AND HE DOES NOT ASK FOR IT, YOU SHOULD REFRAIN FROM DOING SO AT THIS TIME. IF HE PRESSES, YOU MAY PROVIDE IT, NOTING THAT IT IS, OF COURSE, TENTATIVE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION IN MOGADIS-CIO 880, A LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON (LAW) IS A BAZOOKA TYPE ARMOR-PIERCING SHOULDER FIRED MISSILE WITH A DISPOSABLE LAUNCHER.

CHRISTOPHER

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